

# Changing our Name



**Advice for implementing the FWBO's name change  
at your local centre**

FWBO Development Team  
February 2010  
Revised March 2010

<b>Contents</b>	<b>page</b>
Introduction and “headline” points	3
The story so far...	4
Some more background	5
Frequently asked questions	6
Legal matters:	
charity names, legacies, insurance policies, property registration, and visas	8
Financial matters: banking, standing orders, and gift aid	11
Publicity, websites, domain names, e-mail addresses	12
Telling Your Sangha, and suggestions for marking the name change	13
Talking locally to other Buddhists and partner organisations	14
Talking nationally to other Buddhists and the media	15
Appendices:	
* Name change letters from Sangharakshita	15
* “Triratna Buddhist Community” in different languages	19
* Draft letter for FWBO Centres to send to other local Buddhist groups informing them of the name change.	20

*Please note that the information in this pack provided in good faith and to the best of our knowledge. But making use of it does not create any form of legal or professional relationship and we do not accept any liability or responsibility for any action taken on the basis of the information provided. It is the responsibility of the trustees of each FWBO to ensure they fulfil their legal obligations.*

## Introduction and “headline” points

This pack has been created by the FWBO Development Team, responding to a request to do so from the European FWBO Chairs Assembly. It is designed to help you understand the issues behind the name change proposed by Sangharakshita, so you can discuss the issues at your council, and prepare for a change of name should that go ahead. So far, it looks like most councils support the name change and it is very likely to go ahead.

The European Chairs Assembly is proposing that Centres and groups worldwide adopt the new name – Triratna Buddhist Community – suggested by Sangharakshita. They are also proposing that the new name is adopted from Wesak onwards. There are a number of reasons for making this latter suggestion:

- a) It gives time to prepare for the transition.
- b) The Development Team’s sense is that, internationally, most Centre councils are behind this change. But there is still some debate and discussion going on. Waiting till Wesak allows time for the “mood of the Order” to become clear. We are suggesting you discuss this at your council and, if you are into the name change, plan for a transition at Wesak. But, if in the unlikely event that it emerged that lots of people weren’t into the name change, it would give us time to change plan.
- c) The name change is a chance to communicate something of ourselves and our “story”. This message will be stronger and clearer if we all make the transition at the same time.
- d) Making the change at Wesak means there will be a “big occasion” to ritually mark the change, and explain it to people.

The main reasons for the new name are:

- a) It communicates more clearly who we are, especially if we don’t let the name be reduced to an acronym. Perhaps “Triratna” will become the short, informal form of the name; people will say, for example, “I go to a Triratna Buddhist Centre” or “I practice with the Triratna Sangha”. The new name communicates our central ideals (Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha) and how we are trying to create a new form of Buddhism for the modern world that focuses on those central ideals. It also emphasises friendship and community.
- b) We can have one name throughout the world, not a variety of different names as present. Having one name promotes unity; we all go for refuge to the Three Jewels.
- c) It is more accurate; we have not been solely “Western” for some years now.

## **The story so far...**

In early January Bhante wrote a letter (see appendix) which was e-mailed to all Order members worldwide. He said that he had received a letter from Amrutdeep, written on behalf of a gathering of Order Members in India, asking that the name of the Order be changed. Not only was the word "Trailokya" problematic outside Maharashtra, the Indian Order members felt it was important to have one name for the Order worldwide. Consequently Bhante wished to rename the Order the "Triratna Buddhist Order" and the FWBO the "Friends of the Triratna Buddhist Order".

It happened that this letter was written whilst the European FWBO Chairs Assembly was meeting at Dhanakosa in Scotland. The news completely surprised everybody and there was much frantic late-night buying of new domain names. There was also a range of responses to Bhante's letter, from acceptance of his wishes to questioning of the process by which it had happened.

However, the meeting decided to put aside time to discuss the name change. Out of this, quite quickly and spontaneously, a working group emerged and formed a proposal which was agreed by the whole meeting. Their proposal (see appendix) was to write to Bhante to say that they accepted the new name of the Order, but suggested "Triratna Buddhist Community" as the name of the movement.

The Chairs present felt that 'Friends of the Triratna Buddhist Order' would be too long and would tend to get shortened to an acronym which would still differ from language to language. They felt concerned that an acronym doesn't communicate the values of our movement. They also found that the convention 'Friends of...' does not have a meaningful equivalent in certain languages. Those present felt that 'Triratna' encapsulated our central values – the Three Jewels. They chose 'Buddhist Community' to express the relationship between the Movement and the Order, and our emphasis on spiritual community and friendship. The letter from the European Chairs asked Bhante to consider this suggestion, but stated that they would accept whatever decision he made.

The outcome was that Bhante wrote to Order members again (see appendix) withdrawing his initial suggestion for the new name of the Movement and instead suggesting "Triratna Buddhist Community" as the European Chairs had proposed. He also suggested that in India the current 'Sahayak Gana' was changed into the Hindi/Marathi equivalent of 'community'. How exactly this was to be implemented he was going to leave up to the Order.

The European Chairs meeting ended before Bhante's response had been received; however the Chairs Executive, working on the assumption that a change was likely, asked the Development Team to prepare this 'Pack' covering all the areas Centres and other areas of the Movement would need to consider in implementing the change.

In doing so we have become very conscious of the gaps in our collective decision-making processes - who exactly gets to decide what? At times we have felt in a rather difficult position; however we have simply done our best!

## Some more background

Bhante's Message of January 6th 2010 came as a surprise to everyone. However discussions about changing our name had gone on in the Order, on and off, for over 30 years - ever since TBMSG began in 1979. This section gives some of the earlier background to the subject, and also explores some of the reasons why the name change had been on our agenda for so long - and why nothing had happened about it!

This is not the first time the Movement has changed its name. The date of the founding of the FWBO is generally taken to be 6th April 1967 - yet this was in fact the inauguration of the 'Friends of the Western Sangha'. The name was changed to the FWBO less than a year later - before the first public ordinations into the Order on April 7th 1968. A trace of this original name can be seen in the transcript of Bhante's classic lecture 'Mind Reactive and Creative' - and in Vajragupta's forthcoming book on the history of the FWBO, where he says -

*"On the evening of 6th April 1967 about 24 people gathered and recited a ceremony specially written by Sangharakshita to dedicate the Triratna Meditation Room and Shrine of the Friends of the Western Sangha".*

Becoming the Triratna Buddhist Order and Triratna Buddhist Community therefore seems to have a rather pleasing circularity to it.

In 1979 Lokamitra started activities in India, under the auspices of TBMSG - a name given by Bhante in recognition that 'Western Buddhist Order' was not an appropriate name for the new Indian Buddhists. The Order and the Movement thus found themselves with two names each. This situation continued for many years, with additional variations appearing as we abbreviating it and as the name was translated into European languages. Thus we were FWBO in the UK, TBMSG in India, AOBO in France and Spain, VWBO in Holland and Belgium, and so on.

In 1995 Vishvapani, soon after starting work as Director of the FWBO Communications Office, and in the early days of the new Preceptors College Council (PCC), wrote a paper for them arguing for a new name for the Order and Movement. He has recently posted this online at <http://dharmaights.blogspot.com/2010/01/finding-name-for-fwbo.html>.

His reasons were:

- 1) It (i.e. our name as of 1995) sounds bad
- 2) It is inaccurate
- 3) It sows the seeds of disunity

Vishvapani's paper mentions 'Triratna' as a possible name, one reason being that it picked up on themes in Bhante's writings of the period, such as 'The History of my Going for Refuge'. Rather than being about adapting Buddhism for the West, Bhante's teaching of the time was stressing that the kind of Buddhism we practised was about focusing on the core teachings of the tradition - ideals and practices that are summed up in the Three Jewels.

Vessantara coordinated discussions of the name change in chapter meetings in 1996. There was broad, but not universal, support for the proposal, and various names were proposed, but no

consensus emerged about what it should be and the PCC was unable to pursue the issue to a conclusion.

In April 2000 Subhuti wrote to Shabda on behalf of the PCC, suggesting the Order change its name to the 'Buddhayana Mahasangha' and the Movement to the 'Buddhayana Mandala'. Buddhayana was already used by TBMSG as the name of its magazine. This met with widespread support, but also some vociferous resistance, and was therefore followed by a very thorough consultation process, which continued over several years, focused on the network of Order Forums. The results of the consultation were recorded (by Sunanda, we believe). The name Buddhayana was very nearly adopted, but foundered because it was already used by a Buddhist movement in Indonesia and a Dutch Theravadin group.

Dhammarati continued with a gradual process of consultation, beginning with canvassing the degree of consensus that existed in the Order on the need for a name change. He reported a wide consensus on the need for a change, and went on to gather a wide variety of suggestions for a new name - including the rather wonderful "Children of the Sons and Daughters of the Cosmos", suggested by an unknown Order Member! He continued with this process until 2005, at which point he abandoned it. So the matter rested between 2005 and Bhante's intervention in 2010.

The reasons given for a change have basically been consistent since 1995. They are threefold, as given by Vishvapani in 1995 and quoted above. The European Chairs added, in their January 2010 letter to Bhante (see Appendix), that referring to ourselves in an abbreviated form loses any meaning contained within the name.

Of course it has never been the case that all Order Members are agreed that we need a change of name. Some have had very positive associations with the fact we were the Western Buddhist Order, some with the word 'Friends', and many have of course years of memories associated with the name 'FWBO'.

Nevertheless, what has long been clear is that as a Movement and as an Order we have had no simple or clear way to proceed with a Movement- and Order- wide development such as a name change. Hence, perhaps, the rather abrupt nature of Bhante's intervention!

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1) Whose decision is this to make? Why did the European Chairs do what they did?**

This pack has been written by the Development Team, acting on a request from the January European FWBO Chairs Assembly. But the Assembly only represents Centres within Europe, and in any case cannot make decisions on behalf of local Centres, who are all legally autonomous charities. It is up to local councils (trustees) to make any decision to change the name of their Centre or charity. But those that attended the European Chairs Assembly are asking everyone to accept Bhante's suggested name, as they think it's a good suggestion. Some of them had questions about the "process" but nevertheless think it is a good name, and that accepting it is the best and easiest course. (It may well be that issues of "authority" and "decision making" will need to be discussed in the future.)

The fact is that we currently have no formal procedure for discussing this and making decisions at a movement-wide level. Perhaps the nearest thing is the next European Chairs Assembly that will be attended by chairs from beyond Europe – but this won't be until summer 2011! Bhante has made a strong suggestion to us, and the European Chairs Meeting is recommending all Centres get behind it. It is your local council, however, that has to make a decision to change your name and also decide how to implement it.

## **2) What is the purpose of this pack?**

It is designed to help you understand the background story, the reasons for changing the name, and the practicalities of that. This includes legal and financial stuff, where our advice will mainly be applicable in the UK. However, one of the most important things is how we “tell the story” of the name change and the reasons behind it. It is about having a new identity and sense of ourselves, so the more consciously and consistently we can make that transition, the better. So, there are also sections on “telling your sangha” and “telling the wider world”.

## **3) How do you pronounce “Tiratna”?**

TRI: it is a short “i”, as in “igloo” or “India”, not a long “i” that sounds like “tree”.

RAT: is pronounced like the English word “rut” and not like the English word “rat”.

NA: the last “a” is short too, more a “nuh” than a “nerrr”.

So... try it, practice it!!! Tri-Rut-nuh... Tri-Rut-nuh... Tri-Rut-nuh...

## **4) Is there an idea to change all our websites and publicity at the same time?**

We suggest this will be rather difficult in practice! What the European Chairs Assembly is proposing is that we mark the name change at the same time – the suggestion is Wesak (i.e. the full moon night of May, which this year is Friday 28th May). This is also the weekend of the FWBO International Retreat in May, so we would be able to mark the change with a large number of people on that retreat.

If Centres are in agreement with this, it makes sense to aim for this as a date when the new name is implemented and we start using it and explaining it to people. Some things may be very quick to implement, others may take longer. For example, if you've just printed a 2010 brochure with “FWBO” on the front, it will be a while before the name on the brochure changes. Implementing a name change is just going to take time, happen in phases, and be a bit messy. But the suggestion is to discuss and plan now, and to aim for Wesak as the time we make the main changeover and mark it ritually.

## **5) What about tying-in with the Order name change?**

The idea to change the name of the Movement and mark that change at Wesak is based on the assumption that the Order accepts the new name suggested for it by Bhante. The idea of waiting until Wesak therefore also makes sense, because it gives time for things to be discussed in the Order and for “the mood of the Order” to hopefully become clear. So far, it seems very likely the name changes will be accepted, but if that seemed not to be the case we'd have to review the Wesak date. But we suggest planning for that now, and we'll contact you again if anything changes.

## 6) What about telling the wider Buddhist world and the media?

Again, it makes sense to do this in conjunction with the Order name change and to do it as much as possible at the same time – i.e. to plan now, but wait till Wesak. There is a section of this guide that gives advice on how to notify local Buddhist sanghas in your area. The Development Team is in contact with Order Convenors and Dhammarati (Liaison Officer) about telling the Buddhist world, Buddhist media etc. on a UK national and international level. Those beyond the UK may also want to notify your own national Buddhist organisations; again there is advice in this pack on how to do that.

## 7) Are we being asked to change the names of our centres and our websites?

Most centres are called “Yourtown Buddhist Centre”. Some people have contacted us to suggest we should all change to “Yourtown Triratna Buddhist Centre”. Others have contacted us to say they wouldn’t want to change. We don’t think we can get movement-wide agreement on this now and suggest you only change the name of your centre if your council feels there is a decisive advantage in doing so. Maybe, however, this is an issue to be discussed in the future: some people have for a long time felt unhappy about us calling ourselves “The Yourtown Buddhist Centre” which perhaps implies we are the main or only Buddhist Centre in that town.

There is also advice about domain names and e-mail addresses later in the pack. Again, we suggest you do not change these – unless you have “FWBO” in your domain name/website address.

## Legal Matters:

### Charity Names, Legacies, Insurance Policies, Property ownership, Visas

Most of our UK Centres are registered as charities, mostly as unincorporated associations, with some also registered as companies. If the Council of Trustees decide to change the registered name of the UK charity which owns your Buddhist centre, here’s what you need to do:

\* Check your charity constitution to see if you have “power of amendment”. The “standard” constitution used by most of our charities does give power of amendment to the trustees.

\* Your council meeting then needs to make a resolution to change the name and amend it in the constitution of the charity. You also need to resolve to make necessary changes to the constitution – for example, where the constitution states that the objects of the charity are the “supporting ordained members of the Western Buddhist Order” you’d need to change the wording. Here is a “template” resolution that would be written into the minutes of a council meeting (i.e. with the date, list of those present etc. stated at the top):

*The trustees **AGREED** to write to the charity commission to amend the governing document of the charity to change the name of the charity from “Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (Basingstoke)” to “Triratna Buddhist Community (Basingstoke)”*

*The trustees also **AGREED** to write to the charity commission requesting permission to change object **XX** of the charity from “supporting ordained members of the Western Buddhist Order” to “supporting ordained members of the Triratna Buddhist Order”.*



\* A sample constitution for centres, with FWBO replaced by Triratna, can be found at <http://fwbo-centre-support.org/legal-and-organisational/constitutions>.

\* You then need to write to the charity commission to gain written consent to change the constitution. Any registered charity which changes its name must also notify the Commission so that its entry on the Register of Charities can be updated. An unincorporated association with members should provide a certified copy of the resolution effecting the change along with the [declaration form CSD-1342B](#).

For further details about charity names please see their guidance [OG18 - Names of Charities](#).

This is what the charity commission say they will then do:

*“Once we have been notified of the change, we will check the new name to ensure, for instance, that it is neither offensive nor misleading and that the new name is not the same as, or too like that of any other registered charity. If our checks reveal no problems then the Register will be amended.*

*An alternative to a formal change of name is for the charity to adopt a 'working name' ie a name by which a charity identifies itself, any working or campaign name, and any acronym. To ensure as much clarity as possible for the benefit of the public and the charitable sector, our practice is to record on the Register any name of a charity which is in current use and which comes to our attention. Where we are notified of a working name, we will not normally (unless we know of any particular problems associated with its use, or with its adoption by the trustee body) request any further formal evidence of use or approval by the trustees or, in the case of an unincorporated association, by a charity's membership.”*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1) Is it unusual for a charity to change its name?**

No. It's very common for a charity to change its name (see also use of working or campaign names in the more detailed advice notes on the charity commission website). The UK Charity Commission say that there are charities changing their names all the time.

### **2) Is there a quick way of arranging it so that all the Buddhist centre charities can change their names at once?**

No. Our centres, businesses, and so on in the UK have been set up as fully autonomous charities with their own registered number. Each is entirely responsible for deciding its own policies, resolutions, etc - including the name of their individual centre and charity.

### **3) What about legacies and wills? What happens if someone leaves their estate to our Buddhist centre, but uses the old name of the charity in their will? Will our centre still be able receive the donation?**

Yes, a change of name doesn't usually affect the UK charity (with its new name) from receiving legacies and wills that were made out to the old name. The Charity Commission advise that if it's clear that it's the same charity with the same purpose(s) and the same registered number then normally there shouldn't be any problem. Someone contesting would have to prove that the charity with it's new name was essentially different (with a different purpose) from the charity with its old name. The Charity Commission could help verify this; they usually keep the old names on their register for 3 to 5 years.

#### **4) Will our centre's insurance policies still be valid?**

You should inform your insurance companies of any name changes. So long as your insurance company has been informed, name changes shouldn't normally affect your cover.

The Charity Commission advise seeking independent legal advice if there are any uncertainties regarding insurance policies.

#### **5) Does headed notepaper and publicity we produce have to have our name and charity number on it? Does this mean changing everything immediately?**

The charity commission requires that headed notepaper and publicity have the *charity number* displayed on them. You can change the name on your headed paper and publicity in time, there is no need to do it immediately you change name.

#### **6) What do we have to do if we have property registered in the name of the FWBO?**

First find your local Land Registry office from their website

<http://www1.landregistry.gov.uk/regional/offices>. Then write them a letter confirming the change of name, signed by all the signatories to the purchase. Apparently that is all they require.

### **Changing a Company's Name in the UK**

If your charity is also registered as a company, then you'd also need to follow the following procedure in order to change your name. The advice is from [companieshouse.gov.uk](http://companieshouse.gov.uk). For full information see their guidance booklet [GP1 – Incorporation & Names](#).

#### **1) How do I change my company's name?**

Your company must pass a special resolution at a general meeting; or your company must pass a special written resolution that the name of the company be changed to the new name.

A signed copy of the resolution(s) should then be sent to Companies House, together with the fee (currently £10) and a Notice of change of name by special resolution (Form NM01).

**N.B.** Remember to check the availability of the new name on WebCheck before sending your application to us. (*An initial search on the Webcheck site showed no company names beginning with 'Triratna' as of 20th January 2010.*)

#### **2) Is there a specific form or format for a special or written resolution?**

A template for a special resolution on change of name can be found here:

<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/forms/generalForms/NewSpecialResolution.pdf>

#### **3) What is a special resolution?**

A special resolution is a resolution passed at a general meeting of the company by 75% of those members entitled to vote. (An ordinary resolution would pass with 51% of those entitled to vote voting in favour.)

#### **4) What is a written resolution?**

A written resolution can be an ordinary or special resolution. A written ordinary resolution can be passed by a simple majority (i.e. more than 50%) of members. A written special resolution

can only be passed by a minimum of 75% of the members. In both cases there is no requirement to hold a meeting. In the case of a change of name a written special resolution is required.

#### **5) How long does it take?**

If all the documents are correct, the change of name will normally be processed within five working days from receipt at Companies House.

#### **Visas for people in a UK sangha from overseas**

Some UK Centres may have people living and working in your sanghas on a postulant visa or member of a religious order visa. If this is the case, please ask them to contact [lokabandhu@fwbo.org](mailto:lokabandhu@fwbo.org). We don't envisage any complications, but we will, if necessary, ensure their visas are still valid and up to date with the name change.

## **Banking, standing orders and gift aid**

If you decide to change the name(s) of your bank account(s), this can usually be done by sending a written request to be sent to your bank. Normally the request will have to be signed by the usual number of signatories needed to authorised payments and so on.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1) a) Will we need to write to all the people who give donations to our Buddhist centre by Standing Order?**

No. If you are keeping the same account number and sort code then Standing Orders won't normally be affected by a change to the account name. Regular payments should continue automatically as before.

#### **b) Will we need to ask all those people to make out a new Standing Order form which shows the new name of our bank account?**

No, but any new standing orders which are set up after the account name has changed will need to be made out to the new account name. If you have standard forms for people to fill out for Standing Orders, these will need to be amended and/or reprinted.

#### **c) What if we no longer have the current address of someone who donates regularly by Standing Order?**

As above, it shouldn't matter. The regular payments won't normally be affected and should continue automatically as before.

#### **2) Can we still claim Gift Aid when forms have been made out using the old name?**

Yes. A change of name doesn't usually affect the charity (with its new name) from receiving Gift Aid made out to the old name, so long as it's clear that it's still essentially the same charity. You don't need to go back to all your gift aid donors and ask them to sign a new form. If you have standard forms for people to fill out for Gift Aid, these will need to be amended and/or reprinted, from the time of your name change onwards, and anyone using a gift aid form from then on should use the new form. You can find a "standard" gift aid form at:

[http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/appendix\\_b1.pdf](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/appendix_b1.pdf)

## **Publicity, websites, domain names, e-mail addresses**

### **Publicity**

We suggest that all your publicity from Wesak onwards, and perhaps for the next year or so, includes a short explanation of the new name and that we were formerly known as “FWBO”. Here is a sample:

*‘Yourtown Buddhist Centre is part of a worldwide Buddhist movement known as “Triratna Buddhist Community”. We were founded in the West in the late 60’s and were for many years known as “Friends of the Western Buddhist Order”. But as we grew into an international Buddhist movement, the word “Western” was no longer appropriate. We wanted one name that could be used the world over and that reminded us of our central ideals. ‘Triratna’ means ‘Three Jewels’, and refers to the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha - the ideal of Enlightenment, the Path leading to Enlightenment, and the Community of those following the Path respectively. The name reminds us of what is most important in the spiritual life, and what it is we are trying to help bring into the world.’*

### **Websites**

Our suggestion is that a website domain name like “Yourtown Buddhist Centre” is going to be the best in terms of google/search engine find-ability and getting a good ranking. Adding in “Triratna” to that may not have an adverse effect, however it will mean that you effectively have a new website and you will need to re-do all the links to and from your website. If you don’t re-do the links then you *will* adversely effect the ranking of your site and possibly other sites you link to. On balance, we’d suggest staying with your current website/domain name.

An exception to this is if you are “Yourtown FWBO” or have “FWBO” in the domain name. We suggest you purchase a new domain name yourselves and then contact Candradasa and Samudradaka if you would like free webhosting on our server.

What will change in all cases is some of the content of the website – removing references to “FWBO” and explaining the name change as in the subsection on “publicity” above.

Our 'central' websites such as [www.fwbo.org](http://www.fwbo.org) and [www.fwbo-news.org](http://www.fwbo-news.org) will also be changing, though we have not yet worked out the details of this process or what the new 'Triratna' addresses will be. A major new replacement for fwbo.org has been in development for the past year or more, this was to be called fwbo.com and was to be launched late in 2010. The fwbo.com Steering Group is working out what the new name should be and how to manage our existing sites during the transition. We'll keep you posted - but all our existing sites will continue to work in the meantime!

### **E-mail addresses**

Some of you may have @fwbo.com or @fwbo.org e-mail addresses. Candradasa and Samudradaka will contact you about changing these in time. We’d appreciate it if you could hang on and wait for them to get round to this... they’d only just spent about two months setting up hundreds of new @fwbo.com addresses!

## Telling Your Sangha

In a way, this is the most important section. The proposed new name is a chance to “tell our story” – to communicate ourselves and about ourselves in a new way. It is important that those of you “up front” at your centres talk about it in a consistent and meaningful way. You need to bear in mind that for people who are new to your centre, the name change may not actually mean that much: they may not have any associations with the old name, they may not even be that aware of it. For people who’ve been around longer, it may be more significant and there will be a range of responses to the new name (though our sense is that most people so far respond favourably).

However, a name change is a significant event and it’s a chance to talk about our central ideas (Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha) and how we are trying to create a new form of Buddhism for the modern world that gets back to those central ideals. It is an opportunity to talk about how we are an international movement; though we started in the West, we are no longer just “Western”. And it offers the chance to talk about the importance of friendship and community – which have always been one of our strengths and “distinctive emphases”.

It also makes sense that we all mark the name change and start using the new name at the same time. Again, the message will be stronger and clearer if we make the transition at the same time. The European Chairs Assembly is proposing that all FWBO Centres and groups world-wide mark the name change with a collective ritual on Wesak this year - which happens to coincide with the FWBO International Retreat at Taraloka, and which we’re hoping 500+ people from UK and European Centres will be able to attend. The full moon falls on Friday 28th May, we’re assuming most Centres are planning to celebrate Wesak sometime over that weekend and we suggest you mark the name change sometime during your Wesak celebrations.

### **Some suggestions for marking the name change**

The new name, Triratna, immediately suggested to us a ceremony based around (1) the verses of the first two sections of the Threefold Puja and (2) offerings of representations of the Three Jewels, made by members of the Sangha, to create a collective ‘Triratna shrine’. You might also like to follow that with a Dedication Ceremony, Refugees and Precepts, and Mantra chanting. A suggested order for a ceremony is below.

We’d like to suggest that you record the event in whatever ways you are able. In particular we request you photograph your Triratna shrine and send the photos to us - as for the Urban Retreat in 2009 we’ll assemble these into a Movement-wide Triratna montage and circulate that back to you again.

This will be a unique date in the history of the Movement so we’d urge you to put some energy into it, and to make some sort of record of the event.

The Order has not yet decided when or how to mark the change to the name of the Order. However the FWBO was founded before, and separately, to the WBO, so we feel free to proceed independently.

### **Suggested Name-Change Ceremony**

The purpose of the ritual is to make conscious and explicit the meaning of the new name and the reasons for adopting it. So, the ritual needs to bring out the meaning of the Three Jewels, the fact that we are a worldwide movement, and the emphasis on friendship and community.

Three-fold Puja, sections 1 and 2

#### 1. Opening Reverence

*We reverence the Buddha, the Perfectly Enlightened One, the Shower of the Way.*

*We reverence the Dharma, the Teaching of the Buddha, which leads from darkness to Light.*

*We reverence the Sangha, the fellowship of the Buddha's disciples, that inspires and guides.*

#### 2. Reverence to the Three Jewels

*We reverence the Buddha, and aspire to follow Him.*

*The Buddha was born, as we are born.*

*What the Buddha overcame, we too can overcome;*

*What the Buddha attained, we too can attain.*

*We reverence the Dharma, and aspire to follow it,*

*With body, speech and mind, until the end.*

*The Truth in all its aspects, the Path in all its stages,*

*We aspire to study, practise, realise.*

*We reverence the Sangha, and aspire to follow it:*

*The fellowship of those who tread the Way.*

*As, one by one, we make our own commitment,*

*An ever-widening circle, the Sangha grows.*

Offerings and creation of Triratna shrine, with Shakyamuni Mantra

You could also have offerings of representations of one or another of the Three Jewels, created by members of the Sangha, all building up into a Triratna Shrine. Another idea would be to have "Triratna Buddhist Community" printed in different languages on nice card (see appendix).

Dedication Ceremony

Refuges and Precepts

Closing Mantras

### **Recording the ceremony**

Please send us photographs of the Triratna shrine (to [lokabandhu@fwbo.org](mailto:lokabandhu@fwbo.org)). Any video footage also very welcome - best to upload that to YouTube, tag it 'FWBO' (and 'Triratna'!) and send us the link.

## **Talking locally to other Buddhists and partner organisations**

There'll be quite a few people to inform of our new name. Different groups of people will be more or less interested in the details, and we suggest you give a bit of thought to considering who to approach and what to say to them. Locally, besides your local Sangha, there's...

- \* Other local Buddhist groups (see sample letter in appendix);
- \* Local media;
- \* Any partnerships you have with other organisations in areas such as MBCT work, prison chaplaincy, or Carers Retreats

We believe that the name change story is unlikely to be of much interest to your local media, unless the name of your Centre is changing, for instance to the XXX Triratna Buddhist Centre. However organisations you have some professional partnership with may appreciate a simple letter informing them that the FWBO as a whole is becoming the Triratna Buddhist Community, and that as a consequence your charity will be changing its name to XXX. You might like to mention that in all other respects you will simply be going on as before!

## **Talking nationally to other Buddhists and the media**

Once it is absolutely clear the name change is going ahead in both the Order and movement, the Development Team will liaise with the Order Office and Dhammarati (Liaison Officer) with a view to writing to UK national Buddhist groups, national media, and international Buddhist media (Tricycle, the Middle Way, etc). Those beyond the UK may also want to notify their own national Buddhist organisations; the sample letter in the appendix may help with that.

## **Appendices**

### **Name change letters from Sangharakshita**

#### **A new message from Bhante to the Order, Madhyamaloka 1st January 2010**

On 22 November 2009 I received an important letter from Dhammachari Amrutdeep, the Convener of the Indian Order Convention Team. In it he requests me, on behalf of the Indian Order members, to change the name of the Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha as well as to give a new name to the whole Order. He points out that the term Trailokya is not understood in India outside Maharashtra, and that in order to promote the experience of unity there should be one name for the whole Order. Dhammachari Amrutdeep goes on to say that he and his fellow Indian Order members are ready to accept whatever new name I give the Order.

This letter moved me deeply, as I had been aware for some time that Indian Order members were dissatisfied with the term Trailokya and would like to change it. I was also aware that if the Order worldwide had one name it would promote a greater sense of unity. I am therefore very

much in favour of acceding to the request of the Indian Order members and changing Trailokya to something else. Outside India, of course, the Order is known as the Western Buddhist Order, but for obvious reasons I cannot meet the Indian Order member's request for a new name for the whole Order simply by changing Trailokya to Western. Getting rid of Trailokya involves getting rid of Western, the use of which is in any case inappropriate not only in India but also in Russia and China and elsewhere, as some Western Order members have pointed out.

I would therefore like to change the name of the Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha and, at the same time to change the name of the Western Buddhist Order, so that in future there will be one name for the Order in India and in the rest of the world. I would have preferred to announce the new name at the next international Order Convention to be held in India, but I do not want to keep the Indian Order members waiting for so long. What is more I cannot guarantee that I will still be around at the time of that Convention or, even if I am still around, that I will be well enough to attend it.

I hope that Western Order members will be as moved as I was by the request I received, and that they will join with me in wanting to meet the wish of the Indian Order members for a change of their own name and for a name for the whole Order. Having one name for the whole Order will make it clear to the world not only that we all go for Refuge to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, but that whether in the East or the West, the North or the South, we are one united Order, with a single vision and a single heart and mind.

After much deliberation, the new name for the Order that has come to me is the Triratna Buddhist Order (in Hindi, Triratna Bauddha Mahasangha), and I suggest that all Order members adopt it straight away. Since any change in the name of the Order involves a corresponding change in the names of its supporting bodies, I suggest that the chairmen and chairwomen of the various autonomous FWBO centres bring the matter to the attention of their respective councils with a view to changing their name from, for example, Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, Tooting to Friends of the Triratna Buddhist Order, Tooting.

For your information I include a copy of Dhammachari Amrutdeep's email of 22 November 2009.

*Hon. Urgen Sanghrakshita.*

*Salutation to you and I hope you are in good health! I am writing this letter on behalf of some OM's from Pune. Recently there was a Order Gathering and a workshop for more than 45 OM's in Pune, which was lead by Subhuti.*

*In one of Question--Answer session This question was asked to Subhuti that we had large discussion on the issue of Changing the Name of the Order amongst all Chapter's in India and report of which was sent to U.K for further decision. But over the period of more than five years, we in India did not heard or get any feedback or information about it. So we wanted to know that is there any progress in so far in this regard? Or is it that this issue altogether has completely stopped? Subhuti replied that unfortunately it is stopped, and was difficult to come to final decision.*

*Then some more discussion took place in front of Subhuti and most of OM's were felt strongly that The Name of the Order must Change, for the following reasons;*



- 1) To experience Unity of the Order there should be one Name which can represent Whole Order.
- 2) There is always confusion about Western and Indian Order, when we use two different Name's.
- 3) Though Trailokya is generally accepted in Maharashtra, yet people from other states of India find it difficult to relate as Buddhist Name.
- 4) Apart from India and Western Country, other parts, especially Asian countries, would find it difficult to relate as a Buddhist.

Therefore we all would like Bhante to consider our request to finalise the Name for the Order as it is most difficult to get consensus widely from all OM's from the Order. Whatever Name Bhante would suggest, we all feel happy about that. So we again would like to request that please consider this sooner and positively.

With Lots of Metta,  
Amrutdeep  
Coordinator of Indian Order convening Team.

#### **Supplement To Bhante's New Message To The Order, Madhyamaloka, 15th January 2010**

My new message to the Order was sent out on 6th January 2010. It so happened that the European Chairs Assembly was then in session at Dhanakosa, so that its thirty six members were able to discuss my suggestion that the name of the Western Buddhist Order should be changed to the Triratna Buddhist Order, and the name of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order to Friends of the Triratna Buddhist Order.

The result was that on 10th January 2010 I received a letter from them. They all happily accepted the new name I had given the Order, they said. However, they felt that there were various difficulties associated with the name of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order. Having spelt out these difficulties, they went on to suggest that the name of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order should be changed not to the Friends of the Triratna Buddhist Order, but to the Triratna Buddhist Community. They had considered the matter in some depth, they assured me, bringing to bear their collective experience and care for the Movement internationally, and they would be grateful if I would seriously consider their proposal.

Since receiving the European Chair's letter I have, as requested, given serious consideration to their proposal and have come to the conclusion that it is a very reasonable one. I am therefore withdrawing my suggestion that the name of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order be changed to Friends of the Triratna Buddhist Order and suggest instead that it should be changed to the Triratna Buddhist Community. I trust this will be acceptable to all Order members. Indian Order members should, I suggest, change 'Sahayak Gana' into the Hindi/Marathi equivalent of 'community'. This will further align them with Western Order members, thus emphasising the fact that there is one Order and one Movement to which all equally belong.

An Order member has suggested that an event as significant as the Order's change of name should be marked sometime this year with a ritual. Such a ritual, she believes, would create a greater sense of unity within the Movement. Another Order member has suggested that all

website addresses and centre addresses should be changed on the same day. These are good suggestions, but I shall have to leave it to Order members to implement them as they think fit. For your information, I include a copy of the European Chairs Assembly's letter of 10th January 2010.

*Dear Bhante*

*We are writing to you from the European Chairs Assembly regarding the Order name change.*

*Like you, we are moved by the request from Indian Order members and we would very much like to have a unified name for the Order. We all happily accept the name you have given. Indeed, we also regard it as an opportunity to promote greater cohesion and unity through the name of the movement.*

*Much as we have loved it, we are aware of certain difficulties with the old name, Friends of the Western Buddhist Order, difficulties that we fear might apply to the new name were it to be 'Friends of the Triratna Buddhist Order'.*

*Firstly, the name, comprising six words, is long and encourages the use of an abbreviation.*

*Secondly, we are aware that the previous acronym, FWBO, differs from language to language.*

*Thirdly, we are concerned that an acronym doesn't communicate the values of our movement.*

*Furthermore, the convention 'friends of' works well in an English linguistic and cultural context, but does not have a meaningful equivalent in certain continental European languages such as German and Dutch.*

*Could we use this opportunity to choose a name less likely to be abbreviated and more likely to promote a sense of unity? The new name for the movement that we would like to propose is the "Triratna Buddhist Community".*

*We like 'Triratna'. Not only does it encapsulate our central values, it also provides a positive identifying marker for the Order and the movement. We have chosen 'Buddhist Community' to replace 'friends of' as an expression of the relationship between the movement and the Order and our emphasis on spiritual community and friendship.*

*We have considered this in some depth, bringing to bear our collective experience and care for our movement internationally, and we would be grateful if you would seriously consider our proposal. At the same time we want you to know that we will be happy with whatever decision you make.*

*Whatever the outcome, the chairmen's assembly is committed to implementing the name change smoothly and positively at our centres.*

*We look forward to hearing your response.*

*With love and respect,*

*The European Chairs Assembly*

## **“Triratna Buddhist Community” in different languages**

Here’s what we’ve collected so far....

**Danish:** Det Vestlige Buddhist Samfund ('Western Buddhist Community')

**Dutch:** Triratna Boeddhistische Orde | Triratna Boeddhistische Beweging

**English:** Triratna Buddhist Community (surprise surprise!)

**Estonian:** Triratna Ordineeritud Budistide Ühendus | Triratna Budistlik Kogukond

**Finnish:** Buddhalainen Yhteisö Triratna.

**Flemish:** Triratna Boeddhistische Gemeenschap

**French:** Communauté Bouddhiste Triratna

**German:** Buddhistische Gemeinschaft Triratna

**Italian:**

**Norwegian:**

**Polish:** Wspólnota Buddyjska Triratna.

**Portuguese:**

**Russian:** Буддийская община <<Триратна>> | Buddiskaya Obshina "Triratna"

**Spanish:** Orden Budista Triratna

**Swedish:** Buddhistiska Gemenskapen Triratna

**Turkish:** Triratna Budist Topluluğu' The penultimate letter is a 'soft' g.

## **Draft letter for FWBO Centres to send to other local Buddhist groups informing them of the name change.**

What follows is a sample letter FWBO Centres may wish to use to inform their local Buddhist groups of the FWBO's change of name. It may need a little editing before use, for instance depending whether or not the Centre or its website will be changing its name. There's red XXXs where details will definitely need changing, other sections of the letter are of course up to you. We will be contacting national and international Buddhist media (Tricycle, the Middle Way, etc) separately. This letter is intended to be used once the name change has been formally agreed and a date set.

Dear XXX,

### **New name for the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order**

I'm writing to let you know that on XXX the YourTown Buddhist Centre will be changing its name to the YourTown Triratna Buddhist Centre. *[delete if this is not the case!]*

The FWBO (Friends of the Western Buddhist Order) as a whole, and the Western Buddhist Order itself, will become known as the Triratna Buddhist Community and the Triratna Buddhist Order respectively. 'Triratna' will be our common name and identity worldwide.

### **Triratna**

The Sanskrit word 'Triratna' means simply 'Three Jewels', and refers of course to the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha to which all members of the Order Went for Refuge at the time of their ordinations. The Three Jewels have long been used as emblems in many F/WBO situations, for instance the logo of FWBO News and on the Kesas worn by Order Members.

We'll be marking these changes with an FWBO-wide ceremony on Wesak, at the end of May this year - this date was chosen as it coincides with a long-planned large international FWBO retreat.

### **Our reasons**

The suggestion to change the name was made on January 6<sup>th</sup> in a letter from Sangharakshita to all members of the Western Buddhist Order. His letter was itself a response to one from a group of Indian Order Members gathered in Pune, in which they requested him to change the Indian name of the Order from the present 'Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha' and also to give a new and unified name to the whole Order world-wide.

Sangharakshita's letter says in part -

*"... I hope that Western Order members will be as moved as I was by the request I received [from India], and that they will join with me in wanting to meet the wish of the Indian Order members for a change of their own name and for a name for the whole Order. Having one name for the whole Order will make it clear to the world not only that we all go for Refuge to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, but that whether in the East or the West, the North or the South, we are one united Order, with a single vision and a single heart and mind.*

*“After much deliberation, the new name for the Order that has come to me is the Triratna Buddhist Order (in Hindi, Triratna Bauddha Mahasangha), and I suggest that all Order members adopt it straight away”.*

Both ‘Western’ and ‘Trailokya’ had become increasingly problematic for many in the Order over the past decade - ‘Western’ because our Order is increasingly international, with members active in India, Russia, Turkey, and China, as well as other non-Western countries; and ‘Trailokya’ because it is a word not widely understood outside the Indian State of Maharashtra, and we are increasingly active in many places all across India. Discussions about changing the name had in fact continued in the Order on and off since 1979, when we first began activities in India and the name Trailokya Bauddha Mahasangha was chosen in recognition of the fact that ‘Western’ was not appropriate.

We’re delighted to have a single name that we can use world-wide, and to be able to move away from the many sets of initials that seem to have followed us around the world - FWBO, AOBO (in Spain), VWBO (in Holland) TBMSG (in India) - and so on.

We’re also pleased to have a name that reminds us of the central values of Buddhism every time we use it. And we’d like to invite you to update your records accordingly, and to begin referring to us simply as ‘Triratna’. It’ll take us some time to follow through all the details so please bear with us during this transition period.

#### **New details**

Our new details will be as follows -

Name: **XXX**

Website: **XXX**

Email: **XXX**

Our central websites will also be changing, though this process may take a while longer. In the meantime the old ones ([www.fwbo.org](http://www.fwbo.org) and [www.fwbo-news.org](http://www.fwbo-news.org)) will still work.

Please do pass these details on to anyone you think may be interested.

With best wishes,  
Yours in the Dharma,  
**XXX**

**Chairman, XXX Buddhist Centre**